War-1364th Day The Great

time since the war began, had tanks in action. Three of these engines of war accompanied the storming infantry, which at latest reports had battled forward into the eastern outskirts of the town, where severe fighting took place.

Germans Make Slight Progress From the sector came word that the Germans had made very slight

The assault was preceded by a heavy bombardment about Villers-Bretonneux. At the conclusion of this preparation the Germans surged forward along the whole British front south of the Somme, although it seemed evident that they had Villers-Bretonneux as their ultimate goal because of its dominating posi-

The first attack was thrown back, but the enemy immediately came forward again, and this time met with more success. In the face of heavy machine gun and rifle fire the Germans pushed on toward the town, their three tanks leading. The

tection about 4 o'clock this morning, and what appeared to promise a serious attack began to show. It turned out to be nothing more pretentious than an attempted raid, however, and the British artillery smashed the enemy infantry as they were leaving their trenches.

Between Robecq and Givenchy-Lez la Bassée there was also considerable enemy shelling this morning, and the Germans made a small attack in an attempt to take a post near Givenchy, but this movement was quickly stopped by the British

The British carried out minor operations at Givenchy which resulted in the recapture of a strong post which the enemy held.

South of the Clarence River four German companies which essayed a local attack were repulsed.

Bombardment Lasted Days

Trouble had been brewing in the Somme sector for days, the enemy maintaining a bombardment of more or less intensity over a wide area. Throughout yesterday Villers-Bretonhombardment was greatly increased.

the Robecq and Merville sector, and this morning an intense bombardment was put down in the British positions on both sides of the river Lawe. Thus a large section of the northern battle-

French Artillery

cern be foretold, but even if they succeed the effort would be useless from a military standpoint.

Their previous attempt was frustrated by the determined and herois resistance of rapidly improvised bodies of French and British troops. Since then both sides have had an opportunity to strengthen their positions while awaiting developments.

Despite the atmospheric difficulties during the last few days, the Allied avaitors have been able, through darage tactics, to observe movements by the enemy. They reported the arrival of large reinforcements of German guns, which were located by the Allied gunners and badly hammered. The country is well adapted for military movements. It is undulating ground with many small patches of wood, and with scarcely anything in the nature of a hill to shut off observation. The highest ground is only about three hundred feet above sea level.

As usual, the Germans began the present phase of the battle with the moon approaching fulness and facilitating the movement of troops at night. When the German guns of large calibre started at dawn to pour heavy high explosive projectiles, interspersed with salvos of poison gas shells, on the Allied positions, the French and British were not slow in replying. The bombardment was maintained incessantly throughout the morning. Local infantry operations occurred at many points between the Somme and Avre until a couple of however, hardly any perceptible fluctuation of positions, despite the weight of artillery thrown against them.

French Statement

Their previous attempt was frusting at Lillers, Bethune and Givenchy. It is likely that any success in this sector would be followed up by a widening of the front southward to include Loos.

Apparently Ludendorff is not working according to any hard and fast rule, but is disposing his forces as the campaign develops. A certain objective is selected, a certain force are brought up. This plan is important to the followed up by a widening of the front solve it is disposing his forces are brought up. This pl

French Statement Definitely Locates

American Position The reference in the official statement issued by the French War Office to "Franco-American" forces on the Somme and Avre definitely locates the American troops, which were moved from the southern sectors of the battle fac to parts of the front which are a red pressed during the great German a vive through Picardy. It has been known that they were somewhere in the battle area since April 6, when Stephen Richon, Foreign Minister of France, speaking at Paris, spoke of the Americans "fighting in Picardy and sacrificing their lives to drive the enemy from our land."

On April 10 dispatches from both the

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British gave way slightly, and the enemy got a footing in the eastern fringe of the town.

Raid in North Stopped

Further north, a little above the Albert region, the British infantry put up an S O S for artillery protection about 4 o'clock this morning.

German Blow Aimed to Split Allied Armies

Continued from page !

that Dudendorff had decided upon big operations in this locality.

Scanty reports of the third phase of the Amiens battle indicate that the German spearhead is directed against Hangard, where the Britsh and French forces meet. For a week every hamlet and wood in and around the confluence of the Somme and Avre rivers have been shelled heavily by the enemy. Amiens itself has suffered severely.

To the north, the Albert sector has been the scene of a lively artillery duel with almost daily local infantry actions.

neux and surrounding places were guns have been massed to meet the heavily shelled and this morning the huge enemy force which is billeted around Bapaume, Peronne, Bray, allied positions yesterday, especially in shal Haig's aviation communiqués report almost nightly the bombing of these concentration camps.

> after a long spell of bad weather, and Ludendorff seized the opportu-

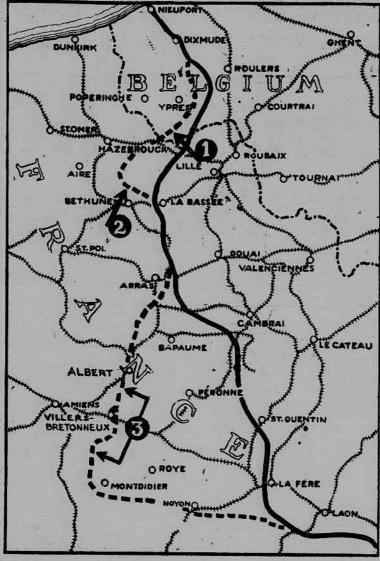
was a month ago. The long pause separation of the French armies from the British.

For Y. M. C. A. Aid in France
PARIS, April 24.—John R. Mott, of
the American Y. M. C. A. war work
council, was received by President
Poincaré to-day and described the tour
of inspection he has just completed of
association work among American and
French traops.

The President showed keenest interest in the recital, and said: "In the
name of the French government and
people I wish to thank the American
people for their indispensable help in
placing the Y. M. C. A. at the disposal
of the French army."



WHERE THE NEW BLOW IS FALLING



The Germans assaulted yesterday on a thirteen-mile front between the linked arrows (3). So far they have been repelled with heavy losses on the flanks, but in the centre have taken the little strip in solid black, including Villers-Bretonneux. At (1) Berlin claims the capture of Vleugelhoek Hill, southwest of Ypres. The British blotted out a German salient about a mile wide and the same depth at 2.

Military Comment

By William L. McPherson

THE Germans are under an irresistible pressure to continue their Western offensive. The battle in the West, as von Hindenburg justly said, "is a living thing; it must have time to grow and de-In front, northeast and southeast velop." Having staked a decision on a gigantic effort which can never be of Amiens, the Allied troops and duplicated, Hindenburg's game in the West must be played through.

The Germans, accordingly, are again rudely testing the holding strength of the British lines. Field Marshal Haig reported a violent German attack yesterday on a twenty-mile front from Albert down to and On the northern battlefront the Ger- Chaulnes, Roye and other places a little beyond the junction point of the British and French armies. Arman artillery pounded the Entente nearer the battle front. Field Mar- tillery preparation on a big scale was followed by infantry assaults. These were broken up on the northern section of the battle front, and also on the southern, except at Hangard-en-Santerre, where the French lost a part of that village. In the middle the British were eventually driven out Tuesday was the first clear day of part of the village of Villiers-Bretonneux, almost directly east of the following:

front was seething to-day.

An attack above Albert came after a half hour bombardment by the enemy. As the German infantry left their trenches, the British deluged them with rifle and machine gun fire and forced the immediate German objectives at the two wings and an additional repulse north of Albert on Tuesday

the immediate German objectives at a hasty retirement.

A British operation yesterday over a 2,000-yard front in the Riez du Vinage sector was a complete success and greatly improved the defending lines. A nasty salient, about 1,500 yards wide and about the same depth, had bulged into the British territory just north of Riez du Vinage. By their attack the British drove the enemy from this salient and straightened their time.

The line of attack is following the general direction of the rivrs.

Ludendorff Seeks Opening

Even should Amiens be lost the situation would be far less serious from a military viewpoint than it was a month ago. The long pause has so far developed. Amiens is still the primary German objective, in Ludendorff More

French Artillery
Hammers German
Guns Reaching Front
(By The Associated Press)
WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN
FRANCE. April 24—The Germans
opened an attack in force carly this
morning in the vicinity of Villiers
Bretonneux and Hangard-en-Senterte,
ending forward forces which they had
been concentrating for some days.
Whether they intend to make another
they intend to make another
cannot be forefold, but even if they
succeed the effort would be useless
from a military standpoint.
The is in command of the army
succeed the effort would be useless
from a military standpoint.
The is no evidence
strend and the reports make no reference
storm of Vlougelhoek, a position northeast of Bailleul, held by the French.
The moral effect would be considerable, but the people have begun to understand that in this batthe way to Amiens, just as the British positions at Givenchy, Festuber
of the battle.
The moral effect would be considerable, but the people have begun to understand that in this batthe territory is a secondary considerable.

According to latest reports, with only
slight success, namely the capture of the way to Amiens, just as the British
positions at Albert, Arras and Lens have not been shaken. They block
the way to Amiens, just as the British positions at Givenchy, Festuber
the way to Amiens, just as the British positions at Givenchy, Festuber
the way to Amiens, just as the British positions at Givenchy, Festuber
to the front, the enemy had
made a new hid for Aniens, but, acferman salient west toward Amiens is a hazardous venture. The British
dolf fast at Albert and in front of Arras an extension of the present
made a new hid for Aniens, but, acfermans shient west toward Amiens is a hazardous venture. The British
dolf fast at Albert and in front of Arras an extension of the present
made a new hid for Aniens, but of Alternoon reports, with only
slight success, namely the capture of the will age of Villiers
for Aniens.

According to He reports trickthe way to Amiens, just as the British positions at Givenchy, Fe The Germans know this. They

This is only a local gain. There was also a vigorous artillery action on the south side of the salient, from Givenchy to Robecq. The British made a local gain at Riez du Vinage, east of Robecq, on La Bassée Canal, where they flattened out an enemy salient.

Apparently the Germans are still feeling for weak spots, having not had time, or perhaps reserves, to organize another real steam roller

The Official Statements

PARIS, April 24.—The French War Office communications to-day

NIGHT .-- An intense bombardment of the Franco-American positions south of the Somme and on the Avre was followed by a German attack carried out all along this front by considerable forces at 5 o'clock in the morning. The efforts of the enemy were directed against Hangard-en-

Santerre, the region of Hailles and Senecat Wood. South of the Avre the battle, which lasted all day, continues at the present hour. It was particularly stubborn in the region of Hangard. After a series of furious assaults the enemy succeeded in gaining a foot-

ing in the wood north of Hangard, as well as in the eastern outskirts of the village, which our troops are desperately defending. The fighting was less violent in the neighborhood of Hailles. Several enemy assaults directed against the ridge east of the village were broken down by our fire and our counter attacks. Further to the south the Germans were similarly checked in their attempts against Senecat Wood and

Hill 82, which remained entirely in our possession.

On the right bank of the Meuse the artillery was quite active. DAY .- Between the Somme and the Avre the enemy's bombardment during the night took on a character of extreme violence along the Franco-British front, especially in the region of Hangard-en-Santerre and Villers

Bretonneux. French artillery carried on an energetic counter bombardment of the German batteries. In the region of the Ailette and Avecourt Wood French patrols took prisoners. Elsewhere on the front there was intermittent cannonading.

Battle Continues at Villers, London States LONDON, April 24.-The official statements from Marshal Haig's neadquarters to-day follow:

NIGHT. -About 6:30 this morning, after a violent bombardment, the enemy attacked our whole from south of the Somme and the French on

our right, and was repulsed. Later in the morning an attack on our positions in this sector was renewed in strength, and, although repulsed with loss on the southern and northern positions of the front, made progress at Villers-Bretonneux, where the fighting has been severe throughout the day. By evening the

enemy had gained possession of the village and the fighting was continuing. Other attacks by the enemy this morning on the north bank of the Somme and north of Albert were repulsed. We secured a few prisoners. By a successful local operation carried out this morning northwest of Festubert a post captured by the enemy in this locality on the 22d was regained. The hostile garrison offered strong resistance and lost heavily.

We captured a few prisoners and four machine guns. Early in the morning the enemy delivered a strong local attack without success against our new positions east of Robecq. Our line was maintained intact and eighty-four prisoners were left in our hands. Additional prisoners were secured in successful minor enterprises in the Forest

of Nieppe and in the neighborhood of Meteren, DAY .- The hostile artillery activity increased yesterday afternoon and evening on the greater part of the British front, particularly in the Somme and Ancre sectors, in the valley of the Scarpe, and in the sectors north of Bethune and north-northeast of Bailleul

At dusk hostile infantry left their trenches to attack northwest of Albert, but met with heavy rifle and machine gun fire and were driven back. Strong hostile attacks developed also late in the evening in the neighborhood of Dranoutre and were repulsed by French troops after sharp fighting. French and British artillary inflicted severe loss on the enemy

During the night the activity of the enemy's artillery continued, and

at an early hour this morning a heavy bombardment was opened along practically the whole British front from north of Albert to our junction with the French south of the Somme. Strong infantry attacks are reported in progress in the Albert sector and between the Somme and the Avre River. Heavy hostile shelling is reported to have taken place also early this morning between Givenchy and Robecq. Concentrations of hostile infantry in the neighborhood of Merville were dispersed by our artillery.

Vleugelhoek Hill Stormed, Berlin Says

BERLIN, April 24-German General Headquarters to-day gave out

NIGHT .- There is nothing new to report from any theatre of the war. DAY .- On the battlefields of the Lys and the Somme the fighting activity was limited to local actions. To the northeast of Bailleul we captured Vleugelhoek Hill by storm and took a number of French prisoners,

West of Bailleul we repulsed British attacks. Strong enemy advances northwest of Bethune were frustrated in our advanced post line. Forefield engagements at many points on the remainder of the front resulted in the bringing in of prisoners.

dendorff More

Economical in the

Use of, Soldiers

Gighting was of a somewhat local character, although over a wide front, or that, abandoning their former tactics, the German military authorities are now resorting to a more economic employment of their forces, as has been

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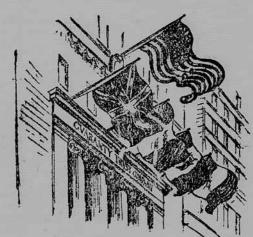
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